

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03565 071154Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 H-02
IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 EA-12
/127 W

-----120021 071914Z /46

R 070651Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1042
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3565

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CE, UK
SUBJ: FURTHER PRESS REPORTS ON BRITISH DEBT FORGIVENESS FOR
SRI LANKA

REF: COLOMBO 2997

1. FOLLOWING IS A PORTION OF A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE WHICH
APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 5 CEYLON DAILY NEWS: BEGIN TEXT:
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO WAIVE ALL ITS DEVELOP-
MENT LOANS AMOUNTING TO RS 765 MILLION (25.5 MILLION POUNDS
STERLING) GRANTED TO SRI LANKA. THIS FOLLOWS UP AN UNDERTAKING
GIVEN BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO WAIVE THESE LOANS AT THE
UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

THE MINISTER OF TRADE, MR. LAITH ATHULADMUDALI, ANNOUCING
THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY SAID SRI LANKA WISHED
TO PLACE ON RECORD ITS DEEP APPRECIATION OF THAT GESTURE BY THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT. ALREADY SWEDEN, DENMARK, HOLLAND, AND
CANADA HAD WRITTEN-OFF THEIR DEBTS WHILE THE USA, FEDERAL RE-
PUBLIC OF GERMANY, JAPAN, BELGIUM, FRANCE AND ITALY WERE
EXPECTED TO MAKE SIMILAR GESTURES. END TEXT.

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2. COMMENT: A SOURCE AT THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HAS
CONFIRMED THAT THE PRESS REPORT OF DEBT FORGIVENESS IS
CORRECT.
WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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